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LETTER DATED 17 MARCH 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SUDAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Please find, enclosed herewith, excerpts from an interview by Fox News channel with George Stephanopoulos, former White House Presidential Aide (see annex).

Mr. Stephanopoulos stated that the United States military strike against Al-Shifa Pharmaceutical Factory in Khartoum has been part of a Clinton administration "Wag the Dog" scenario. He added that "the President did what his military advisers advised. But there is this tendency in the White House to present the President with the decision you know he wants to make. So I think that at some level the way the decision was presented could have been affected by the political crisis."

Mr. Stephanopoulos also indicated that in the case of the controversial bombing of the Sudan pharmaceutical plant, a military error is more likely to have occurred than a political one. "I think in retrospect it has turned out to be a mistake of some sort," he said. "Maybe an intelligence error. I don't think it was badly motivated."

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Elfatih ERWA
Permanent Representative

Annex

Stephanopoulos Says U.S. Bombing of Sudan Could Have Been a 'Wag the Dog'

12.14 p.m. ET (1714 GMT) March 15, 1999

By Patrick Riley

<FN_ARTICLENEW YORK— Last year's military attacks in Sudan and Afghanistan may have been part of a Clinton administration "Wag the Dog" scenario, former presidential aide George Stephanopoulos says.

Stephanopoulos, who left the White House after the 1996 campaign, says that if the commander-in-chief did not act out of political motivations, hoping to sway the public's attention from the scandal, it may have been because he didn't have to — his advisers had already taken this into account.

"I think there is something subtle at work at times of crisis in the White House," he said. "I think the president did what his military advisers advised. But there is this tendency in the White House to present the president with the decision you know he wants to make. So I think that at some level the way the decision was presented could've been affected by the political crisis."

Stephanopoulos, promoting his new memoir *All Too Human*, made the comments in an interview with Fox News Channel's Catherine Crier, which airs Monday night on the *Crier Report* (10 p.m. EST).

In the 1997 movie *Wag The Dog*, a president creates a fake war to divert public attention from a sex scandal. When the United States bombed Sudan and Afghanistan on August 20, 1998, many speculated that life was imitating art.
While the bombings officially came in retaliation for the terrorist bombings of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, they occurred the same day the nation was focused on Monica Lewinsky, who was testifying before the Starr grand jury, and just days after Clinton admitted an inappropriate relationship with her.

Stephanopoulos said in the case of the controversial bombing of the Sudan pharmaceutical plant, a military error is more likely to have occurred than a political one. "I think in retrospect it has turned out to be a mistake of some sort," he said. "Maybe an intelligence error. I don't think it was badly motivated."

During the Stephanopoulos's time in the White House, he says the president never seemed to be abusing his powers. "Whenever the president was preparing to order military force I always thought he was doing it for the right reasons," he says.